Introduction of cellular telephones in Karnataka by BSNL

473. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cellular telephones have been introduced in Karnataka by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited;

(b) if not, by when, the same would be introduced; and

(c) the places where this facility would be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The network roll out is expected in the next financial year subject to the placement of purchase orders.

(c) District headquarters, important pilgrimage centres and highways.

Scrapping of Telecom Advisory Panels

474. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have since scrapped Telecom Advisory Panels;

(b) if so, the names thereof and the date since when these have been scrapped;

(c) the expenditure per annum which is likely to be saved as a result thereof; and

(d) what concrete steps Government have taken so that such Advisory Panels are not constituted/formed in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All the Telephone Advisory Committees (TACs) in the country have been dissolved on 24.09.2001. The names of TACs are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) Rs. 23 crore (approximately) per annum are likely to be saved.

(d) Objectives of constituting TACs are being best served in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) by adoption of innovative mechanisms as the monthly Press Conferences, quarterly Telephone Adalats, quarterly Open Hosue Sessions and quarterly meetings of